

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 24, lines 22-23 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 2 is a diagrammatic cross sectional view of the housing of Fig. 1 along the section line [[A-A]] II-II; and

Please replace the paragraph on page 25, lines 5-20 with the following amended paragraph:

Description of the Preferred Embodiments:

Referring now to the figures of the drawings in detail and first, particularly to Fig. 1 thereof, there is schematically shown, by way of example, a flat housing 1 for an airbag module, as part of an occupant protection device for a motor vehicle, in the assembled state. As is apparent in particular from Fig. 2, which shows a schematic cross section along section line [[A-A]] II-II in Fig. 1, the airbag module 2 includes an airbag 3 and a gas generator 4. In the non-activated state of the airbag module 2 that is shown in Fig. 1, the airbag 3 is accommodated folded up in an airbag-accommodating space 5 of the housing 1, which space is situated laterally next to a gas-generator-accommodating space 6 of the housing 1, which is separated from the airbag-accommodating space 5 by a common partition wall 7 and in which the gas generator 4 is accommodated.

Please replace the paragraph on page 29, lines 15-24 with the following amended paragraph:

In the event of the installed airbag module 2 being activated, the gas produced in the gas generator 4 is therefore blown via the gas duct 17 and therefore via the gas distributor 18 and via the gas blow-out opening 23 from below centrally into the airbag 3, as a result of which the latter is inflated in the airbag-accommodating space 5 and exerts a pressure on the cover [[7]] 10 which tears open along the predetermined tear-open line 11. This pressure on the cover 10 is additionally assisted by the flow of gas which is orientated in the direction of the cover 10.

Please replace the paragraph on page 30, lines 1-11 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 3 illustrates an alternative embodiment to Fig. 2, in which a gas distributor 30 is configured as a separate component which can be latched in a gastight manner in the region of a gas-duct mouth 31 ~~in a lower gas generator accommodating space housing wall region 14 disposed opposite the cover 10 defined by the lower housing walls 14, 15, for~~ for which purpose latching elements 32 are provided on the gas distributor 30 and can be latched into corresponding mating

latching elements 33 on the lower housing wall walls 14, 15.

This allows, for example, gas distributors 30 having different flow cross sections and different geometries of the blow-out opening to be exchanged as desired.